

# PLASTIC IN SWEDEN

Plastic is everywhere, all around us. Plastic consumption is increasing steadily, and so is the amount of plastic waste. Some plastic is stored in products with a long life, such as vehicles, buildings and infrastructure, while disposable plastic products rapidly become waste.

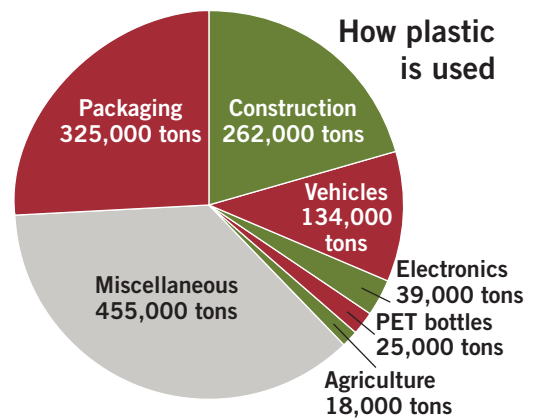
## HOW MUCH PLASTIC DO WE USE?

This diagram shows the amount of plastic that entered the Swedish market in 2016/2017.

Packaging is the largest area of use. It is usually made from polyethene, polypropylene or PET, all of which can be recycled.

The construction industry is responsible for around 21 per cent of plastic use in Sweden. Plastic is used in flooring, pipes, insulation and cables.

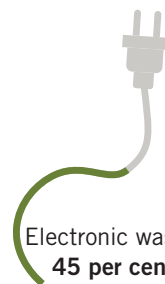
Polypropylene is the most common plastic in vehicles, although fillers and other additives can make plastic from vehicles difficult to recycle. One large segment is made up of miscellaneous plastic products, such as toys, furniture, and medical, household and sporting goods



## EXAMPLES OF HIGH LEVELS OF PLASTIC MATERIAL RECYCLING



PET bottles:  
84 per cent



Electronic waste:  
45 per cent



Packaging:  
Maximum 44 per cent\*

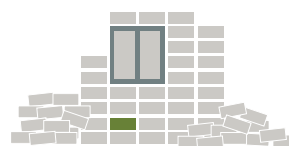
## EXAMPLES OF LOW LEVELS OF PLASTIC MATERIAL RECYCLING



Mixed waste:  
0 per cent



Scrapped vehicles:  
0 per cent



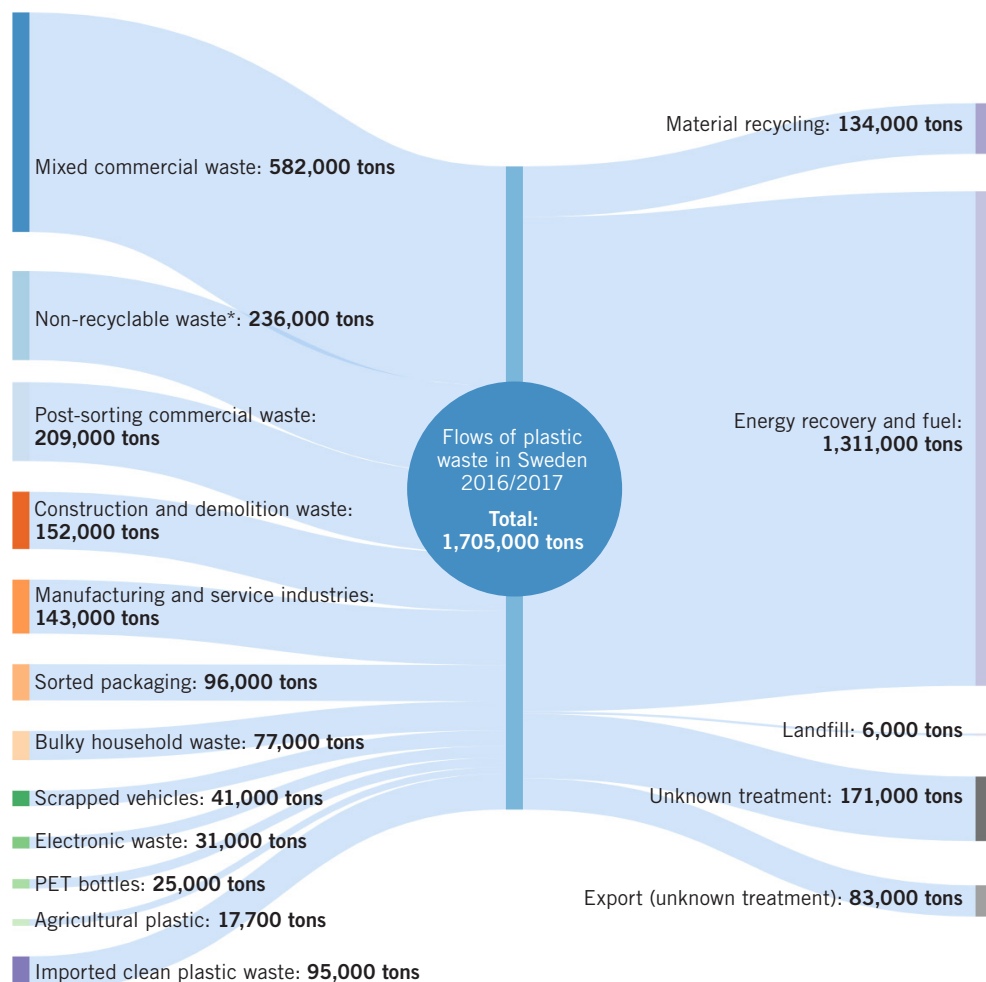
Construction and  
demolition waste:  
0.8 per cent



Municipal  
plastic waste:  
17 per cent

\*Official figure. The actual recycling rate is lower due to losses in sorting and recycling, plus an underestimation of volumes entering the market.

## WHERE DOES PLASTIC WASTE COME FROM AND WHERE DOES IT GO?



\*Non-recyclable waste from households and businesses, collected via municipal waste collection.

## FACTS ABOUT PLASTIC WASTE

- The majority of plastic waste is incinerated and the energy recovered.
- Less than 10 per cent goes to material recycling.
- The cleaner the waste flows, the easier plastic is to recycle.
- Most plastic waste comes from unsorted mixed waste and non-recyclable waste from households and businesses (from health care, industrial production, etc.).

## MORE INFORMATION

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Read the full report (in Swedish) *Kartläggning av plastflöden i Sverige* (*Mapping Plastic Flows in Sweden*) and the summarised report *Plastic in Sweden* on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's website.

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